

REMARKS

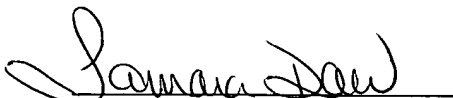
The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated March 24, 2003. Prior to the above amendments, claims 1-20 were pending in the application. In the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7-10, 14-16 and 20 and indicated as allowable claims 3, 4, 6, 11-13 and 17-19. After entry of the above amendments, claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14, 16, and 18-20 have been rewritten and remain in the application and claims 2, 3, 6, 9-11, and 17 are now canceled. In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and allowance of the pending claims.

The amendments rewrite limitations of allowed claims into independent form to conform to Patent Office practice and do not narrow the scope of the claimed invention.

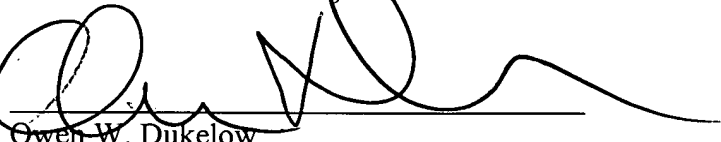
Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on June 23, 2004.


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Respectfully submitted,
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